

From: David Swigger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement (not a form letter)

I have watched with interest the feeding frenzy of politicians over the Enron collapse.

Interest because of the feigned caring about employees and stock holders profits being 'unfairly' ripped from them.

I take great offense at the DOJ's attack on Microsoft. I am not an employee or a stockholder, but I have family that own stock.

The DOJ has tried to make the case the MS is hurting consumers in some manner. I have yet to see one single person (and I work in the technical field) tell me they were harmed in any way from MS.

The DOJ proclaims that MS uses 'unfair business practices'. Unfair is pure subjectivity on the DOJ's part, the software business is unlike any typical business and is more akin to the record industry. The DOJ might as well go after certain record companies for having the most popular artists signed onboard. In software you either innovate or you fall behind and loose.

Microsoft has provided the world with standards that were sorely needed, technology that they give away for free, and an incredible amount of tools to make the industry a better place. For the DOJ to pursue harmful actions against MS is an affront to the core principles of capitalism and a complete abandonment of acknowledgement for achievement.

The DOJ has made its case which in every way affirmative action for software companies. AOL, Netscape, Sun, are using the arguments commonly used in affirmative action to give their cause equivalence. If MS was to be broken up today - there would be a large supply of companies ready to fill their shoes, is this the endless cycle of the DOJ's intrusion on the software industry we can look forward to?

Is it in the DOJ's interest to create a plain of success that must not be exceeded? That is the perception

that I - and many have received from the attack on Microsoft.

The ONLY people that have benefited from the DOJ's attack on Microsoft have been trial lawyers. The same trial-lawyers which always benefit at someone else's expense. This settlement, this case, this whole ordeal has done NOTHING to help a single US citizen in any shape or form. As a matter of fact, the DOJ's insistence on attacking Microsoft created a fall in the Stock Market, and hurt MANY Americans more than can be calculated.

Sun, Netscape, and the Linux crowd have just as much right to innovate and prosper as I do. I take great offense at the prospect that the industry that is driving our nation's superiority is being turned into a welfare system for lagging developers.

I feel the lawsuit in the first place was unjustified, and a clear (let me stress very clear) attempt (appears successful) at bilking money out of a company who had not made significant political contributions (evidently to the right people).

I do not view Microsoft as a lottery as the DOJ and the companies and states involved in the lawsuit seem to. I view Microsoft as a company that I as an American take great pride in. I view Bill Gates as a successful man that emanates the American dream. I currently view the DOJ/companies involved/and the trial lawyers who stand to gain from this - leeches.

-David Swigger
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